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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

METE OUT STIFF SENTENCES FOR MINOR INFRACTIONS

PUNISH POLITICAL OFFENDERS - Argentinisches Tageblatt, Buenos Aires, 13 Jun 51

A resolution of the majority parties of the Berlin Chamber of Deputies protests the fact that the State Security Service of the German Democratic Republic continually detains persons without warrants for their arrest.

Except for cases which are tried before a special court of justice for propaganda reasons, most of the detainees, it is stated, are generally condemned to 25 years of forced labor, in secret proceedings of the military court, after many months of arrest pending trial. Such persons are given no opportunity to contact relatives or lawyers before sentence is passed.

The resolution refers to findings of the Investigating Committee of Liberal Jurists. According to this data, 24,800 persons are currently being kept in political prisons of the German Democratic Republic under inhuman conditions, only because they had exercised their constitutional right of free speech, or because they had been denounced.

SENTENCE ENGINEER FOR SABOTAGE - Berlin, Berliner Rundschau, 9 Jun 51

Engineer Fritz Schurwanz, a high-ranking employee in the Materials Supply Division of the Railroad Directorate in Berlin, has been sentenced to 5 years' imprisonment for committing acts of sabotage. In August 1949, Schurwanz cut eight telephone lines which connected important installations. In October 1950, he stole exchange purchasing certificates issued to the Reichsbahn Directorate as payment for scrap-metal deliveries. The certificates were to be used for the purchase of 44,000 incandescent bulbs (or lamps).

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3-YEAR SENTENCE FOR PETTY METAL THEFT -- Berlin, Taegliche Rundschau, 30 Mar 51

For stealing 17.5 kilograms of brass from his place of work in a people-owned metal and screw factory, Werner Schwanz, a latho operator, was sentenced to 3 years in the penitentiary. The defendant, who attempted to sell his loot in Berlin, was arrested on the Warsaw bridge.

LOST TRADE UNION LEADER -- Zurich, Neue Zuercher Zeitung, 18 Jun 51

Alex Starck, leader of the East German trade union movement, was removed from office 6 weeks ago because he violated mandatory rules. Starck is said to have characterized his discharge as necessary and justified.

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